

**NOTICE OF THE PRELIMINARY DECISION TO ISSUE AN
AQUIFER PROTECTION PERMIT AND AN AIR QUALITY CONTROL PERMIT**

Pursuant to Arizona Administrative Code (A.A.C.), Title 18, Chapter 9, Article 1, the Director of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) intends to issue an Aquifer Protection Permit (APP) No. P-101015 and an Air Quality Control Permit No. 1000383 to the Yarnell Mining Company.

The Yarnell Project is located near the town of Yarnell, Arizona, Yavapai County. It occupies portions of Sections 14, 15, 22, and 23 of Township 10N, Range 5W of the Gila and Salt River baseline and meridian.

The Yarnell Project will be an open pit gold mine and hydrometallurgical precious metal leaching facility operated by the Yarnell Mining Company. The facility will occupy approximately 200 acres. The mining operation will consist of an open pit mine, ore crushing operation, a lined heap leach pad, pregnant solution pond, barren solution pond, ADR (adsorption, desorption, recovery) process plant, cyanide tank, stormwater conveyance channels, process solution ditches and process pipelines, according to the design and operational plans. The operations will be capable of processing in excess of 1.2 million tons of ore per year for approximately 6 years.

The Yarnell Project shall be constructed, operated, and closed under Aquifer Protection Permit No. P-101015. The design, construction, and operational activities conducted under the Aquifer Protection Permit specifically address the discharging facility. Specific information regarding design, construction, operation, and closure activities for the facility can be found in Part II of the APP permit.

The APP permit and related file are available for public review Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., at the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, Aquifer Protection Program Section, Mining Unit, 3033 N. Central Avenue, 4th Floor, Phoenix, Arizona. If you would like additional information, please contact Tony Bode at (602) 207-2255, or the Mining Unit secretary at 207-4692. In addition, a copy of the permit is available for review at the Yarnell Post Office and at the Prescott and Wickenburg public libraries.

Persons may submit written comments relating to the APP permit in writing, to Tony Bode at ADEQ, Aquifer Protection Program Section, Mining APP Unit, 3033 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85012, until March 7, 1998.

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality is also proposing to issue an Air Quality Control Permit No. 1000383 (air permit) to the Yarnell Mining Company. The proposed Air Quality Control Permit will limit emissions of particulate matter and cyanide from the heap leach pad.

You have an opportunity to submit written comments about the air permit. This public notice provides information to help the public participate in the decision-making process. The written comment shall state the name and mailing address of this person, shall be signed by the person, his agent or his attorney and shall clearly set forth reasons why the air permit should or should not be issued. Grounds for comment are limited to whether the air permit meets the criteria for issuance spelled out in the State Air Pollution Control laws or rules.

Materials related to the air permit, including the application, the Department's analysis and the draft permit are available for your review at the Department's office at 3003 N. Central Avenue, 5th Floor, Phoenix, Arizona, or at the Yarnell Post Office and Prescott and Wickenburg public libraries.

Persons wishing to submit written comments relating to the air permit have until March 7, 1998 to do so. Comments should be directed to: Director, Air Quality Division, Department of Environmental Quality, 3033 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85012-2809-33. If you have any questions or need more information on the air permit, please contact Prabhat Bhargava at (602) 207-2329 or at the Department address shown above.

A Public Meeting followed by a Public Hearing will be held at the Wickenburg Community Center in Wickenburg, Arizona, 9:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m., March 2, 1998. ADEQ staff for both permits will be present during the public meeting to respond to questions. The public hearing will be held simultaneously for the public to make their comments for the record.

The Department will consider all comments received in making a final decision on whether to issue or deny the APP and air permits. Any person who has submitted a comment will receive notification of the final decision.

Persons who filed a comment relating to the air permit may petition the Air Pollution Control Hearing Board in writing for a hearing on the final decision. Petitions to the Board must be filed within 30 days after notice of the final decision on the air permit. The Hearing Board may sustain, modify, or reverse the final decision on the air permit.

If you would like to receive copies of future Public Notices of Air Pollution Control Permits, please provide a typewritten or printed copy of your name and address with complete ZIP code, to the Director of Air Quality Division at the Department address shown above. Your request should also state that you wish your name to be placed on the Air Quality Permit mailing list.